

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Governing Board recognizes the value of high-quality preschool experiences to enhance children's social-emotional development, knowledge, skills, abilities and attributes necessary for a successful transition into the elementary education program. The Board desires to provide a supervised and cognitively rich environment designed to facilitate the transition to kindergarten for three- and four-year-old children.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child care and development planning council, the county office of education, other public agencies, organizations, and/or private preschool providers to assess the availability of preschool programs in the community and the extent to which the community's preschool needs are being met. The Board encourages the development of a comprehensive districtwide and/or community-wide plan to increase children's access to high-quality preschool programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide information about preschool options in the community to parents/guardians upon request.

District Preschool Programs

When the Board determines that it is feasible, the district may contract with the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide preschool services in facilities at or near district schools, either directly or through a subcontract with a public or private provider.

District preschool programs shall comply with all health and safety laws and regulations, including, when applicable, licensure requirements pursuant to 22 CCR 101156.

The Board shall approve for the district's preschool program a written philosophical statement, goals, and objectives that reflect the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the families to be served and address the program components specified in 5 CCR 18272-18281 and the accompanying administrative regulation. (5 CCR 18271)

The Board shall set priorities for establishing or expanding services as resources become available, giving consideration to the benefits of providing early education programs for at-risk children and/or children residing in the attendance areas of the lowest performing district schools.

Preschool classrooms shall be addressed in the district's facilities master plan, including an assessment as to whether adequate and appropriate space exists on school sites. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall provide information to the Board regarding facilities financing options for preschool classrooms and/or facilities available through partnering organizations or agencies.

Because parents/guardians are essential partners in supporting the development of their children, the Superintendent or designee shall involve them in program planning.

Students

BP 5148.3 (b)

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The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate the district's preschool program, transitional kindergarten program (TK), and elementary education program to provide a developmental continuum that builds upon children's growing skills and knowledge.

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a preschool or child care program. (Education Code 8205, 48000)

The district's program shall be aligned with preschool learning foundations and curriculum frameworks developed by CDE which identify the knowledge, skills, and competencies that children typically attain as they complete their first or second year of preschool. The program shall be designed to facilitate children's development in essential skills in the areas of language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

The district's preschool program shall include activities and services that meet the needs of dual language learners for support in the development of their home language and English. (Education Code 8203)

The district's preschool program shall provide appropriate services to support the needs of at-risk children.

To maximize the ability of children to succeed in the preschool program, the program shall support children's health through proper nutrition and physical activity and shall provide or make referrals to available health and social services as needed.

The district shall encourage volunteerism by families participating in the program and shall communicate frequently with parents/guardians of enrolled children regarding their child's progress.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals in district preschool programs possess the appropriate permit(s) issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, meet any additional qualifications established by the Board, and participate in professional development opportunities designed to continually enhance their knowledge and skills.

Preschool admissions policies and procedures shall be in writing and available to the public. Such policies and procedures shall include criteria designating those children whose needs can be met by the program and services, the ages of children who will be accepted, program activities, any supplementary services provided, any field trip provisions, any transportation arrangements, food service provisions, and a health examination requirement. (CCR 18105; 22 CCR 101218)

Students

BP 5148.3 (c)

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The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that subsidized preschool is provided to eligible families to the extent that state and/or federal funding is available and shall establish enrollment priorities in accordance with Education Code 8263 and 5 CCR 18106.

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend strategies to link the district's preschool program with other available child care and development programs in the district or community in order to assist families whose child care needs extend beyond the length of time that the district's part-day preschool program is offered.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the plan to provide access to full-day learning programs the year before kindergarten addresses the needs of preschool children and their families as specified in BP 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten. (Education Code 8281.5)

When a district CSPP program is physically closed by local or state public health order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district shall provide distance learning to preschool children when required to do so as a condition of funding or when required by law.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an annual plan of evaluation which conforms to state requirements. (5 CCR 18279)

The district's ~~Williams~~ uniform complaint procedures, with modifications as necessary, shall be used to investigate and resolve complaints alleging violation of applicable health or safety requirements for license-exempt programs operating under the California State Preschool Program. However, licensed programs shall refer complaints alleging health and safety violations to the California Department of Social Services. (Education Code 8235.5; 5 CCR 4610, 4611)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding enrollment in district preschool programs and the effectiveness of the programs in preparing preschoolers for transition into the elementary education program.

State

22 CCR 101151-101239.2: General requirements licensed child care centers

22 CCR 101212-101231: Continuing requirements

22 CCR 101237-101239.2: Facilities and equipment

5 CCR 18000-18434: Child care and development programs

5 CCR 18130-18136: California State Preschool Program

5 CCR 18295: Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor

5 CCR 4600-4670: Uniform complaint procedures

5 CCR 4690-4694: Complaints regarding health and safety issues in license-exempt preschool programs

5 CCR 80105-80125: Commission on Teacher Credentialing, child care and development permits

Ed. Code 44065: Interchange between certificated and classified positions

Ed. Code 44256: Credential types

Ed. Code 48000: Transitional kindergarten

Ed. Code 48985: Notification, primary language other than English

Ed. Code 8200-8209: General provisions for child care and development services

Ed. Code 8200-8499.10: Child Care and Development Services Act

Students

BP 5148.3 (d)

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Ed. Code 8230-8233: Migrant child care and development program
Ed. Code 8235-8239.1: California State Preschool Program
Ed. Code 8240-8244: General child care and development programs
Ed. Code 8250-8252: Programs for children with special needs
Ed. Code 8263: Eligibility and priorities for subsidized child development services
Ed. Code 8263.3: Disenrollment of families due to reduced funding levels
Ed. Code 8264.8: Center-based child care programs, staffing ratios
Ed. Code 8273.1: Family fees
Ed. Code 8360-8370: Personnel qualifications
Ed. Code 8400-8409: Contracts, administrative appeal procedure
Ed. Code 8493-8498: Facilities, capital outlay
Ed. Code 8499.3-8499.7: Local child care and development planning councils
H&S Code 120325-120380: Immunization requirements
H&S Code 1596.70-1596.895: California Child Day Care Act
H&S Code 1596.90-1597.21: Day care centers

Federal

20 USC 1400-1482: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
20 USC 6311-6322: Title I, relative to preschool
20 USC 6371-6376: Early Reading First
20 USC 6381-6381k: Even Start Family Literacy Program
20 USC 6391-6399: Education of migratory children
42 USC 9831-9852c: Head Start programs
42 USC 9857-9858r: Child Care and Development Block Grant
45 CFR 1301.1-1305.2: Head Start

Management Resources

California Department of Education Publication: Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000
California Department of Education Publication: Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning, 2nd ed., 2009
California Department of Education Publication: First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999
California Department of Education Publication: Dream Big for Our Youngest Children: Final Report of the California Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee, 2010
California Department of Education Publication: California Preschool Learning Foundations
CSBA Publication What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness, Governance Brief, May 2016
U.S. Department of Education Publication: Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings, 2016
U.S. Department of Education Publication: Good Start, Grow Smart, April 2002
Website: National Institute for Early Education Research
Website: California Association for the Education of Young Children
Website: California Head Start Association
Website: California Preschool Instructional Network
Website: Child Development Policy Institute
Website: First 5 California
Website: California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
Website: Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership
Website: CSBA
Website: California Department of Education
Website: U.S. Department of Education

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ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Orcutt, California

